

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: June 8, 2006

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 5:39 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Attending Members

Vernon Brown, Chair
Bob Cockrum
Ron Gibson
Monroe Gray
Dane Mahern
William Oliver

Absent Members

Susie Day
Earl Salisbury

PROPOSAL NO. 326, 2006 - approves certain public purpose grants totaling \$1,543,500
for the support of the arts
"Do Pass"

Vote: 6-0

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

The Parks and Recreation Committee of the City-County Council met on Thursday, June 8, 2006. Chair Vernon Brown called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. with the following members present: Bob Cockrum, Ron Gibson, Monroe Gray, Jr., Dane Mahern, and William Oliver. Absent were: Susie Day and Earl Salisbury.

PROPOSAL NO. 326, 2006 - approves certain public purpose grants totaling \$1,543,500 for the support of the arts

Dan Appel, Chairman of the Indianapolis Arts Council, thanked the City and the Council for their continued support of the arts. The Arts Council not only has a leveraging effect on the economic development of the city, it also has a tremendous effect in allowing children from all over the community to have access to arts programming through outreach. He stated that it adds to the vitality of Indianapolis by attracting and maintaining the population base here at the Arts center, and he is very grateful for the support the city has given.

{Clerk's Note: Councillor Gibson arrived at 5:02 p.m.}

Greg Charleston, President, Indianapolis Arts Council, thanked the committee for holding their meeting at the Arts Center. Mr. Charleston stated that he is pleased to continue to work with the Parks department and continue the relationship that has been built together. Mr. Charleston went on to discuss a packet of information that describes the distribution of grant funding for the many different recipients. He also stated that the Arts Council is pleased to partner with the Cultural Development Commission and together they are managing the public art initiative as part of that work. Some of the key points of the presentation were:

- Subsidized tickets for at-risk and economically disadvantaged youth
- After school programming
- Arts educational outreach

{Clerk's Note: This packet, Exhibit A, is on file in the Clerk's office.}

Councillor Cockrum asked why WFYI was no longer included in the recipients of the grants. Mr. Charleston stated that the Arts Council is working on a different contract with WFYI in which they will benefit from city funding opposed to a grant.

Councillor Oliver stated that he is very impressed with the oversight review of the Arts Council and likes what he hears.

Councillor Mahern stated that the Arts Council not only benefits the downtown area but reaches out to the different communities, and he is very happy.

Councillor Gray offered congratulations and support for all the Arts Council does for the community and will continue to support them and hope they will continue to grow and become a bigger part of our city.

Councillor Gibson stated that there is an economic impact the Arts has on the city. It adds to the quality of life, and he wishes there was more funding to give.

Councillor Gray moved, seconded by Councillor Mahern, to send Proposal No. 326, 2006 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a 6-0 vote.

Joyce Summers, Executive Director of the Indianapolis Arts stated that the Arts council has seven outreach programs that have much to do with art and nature. She also stated that a project is in the works called Canoe Launch that will start in the fall. Ms. Summers said that different organizations help make the Arts council what it is today.

Keisha Dixon, Director of the Ashanti Children's Theatre, stated that the Arts council is very important to the youth. They need to see the stepping stone that it provides.

{Clerk's Note: Councillor Gray left at 5:20 p.m.}

Other Business

Mindy Taylor Ross, Director of Public Art, reviewed a powerpoint presentation in detail, which is attached as Exhibit B. Some key points were as follows:

- Urban Interpretations: local artists are given the opportunity to address vacant street level spaces.
- Shared Spaces / Shared Voices, a project with Indygo

Ms. Ross went on to say that the project with Indygo is an open call to writers to submit original unpublished work based on the title of the project. The project is open to youth and adults. There will be one placard featuring a prose or a poem, on each bus in circulation. Ms. Ross stated another project is that artists will do live poetry readings on selected Indygo buses starting August 25th running through September 3rd 2006.

Councillor Gibson stated that he is pleased to hear about the projects that include the Indygo bus system, because Indygo is so important to Indianapolis.

Dave Lawrence, Vice President, Indianapolis Arts Council, stated that everyone at the arts council is proud of the different organizations with which they work. The Arts Council is happy when they find real gems in the city, and one of those is the Ashanti Children's Theatre.

The Ashanti Children's Theatre gave a brief two minute show titled, "Who's Your Daddy."

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With no further business pending, and upon motion duly made, the Parks and Recreation Committee of the City-County Council was adjourned at 5:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vernon Brown, Chair
Parks and Recreation Committee

VB/lw